

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated December 14, 2007. In view of the foregoing amendments and following representations, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

By the above amendment, claims 13, 21 and 30 are amended. Thus, claims 13, 14, 16-22 and 24-30 are currently pending in the present application.

Initially, on page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 22 and 24-29 are allowed, and that claims 13 and 30 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is sincerely appreciated, and, as will be explained below, claims 13 and 30 have been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 21 and 30 are objected to by the Examiner. In response, claims 21 and 30 have been amended to place the limitation in a standard Markush group thereby avoiding any ambiguity as to what is intended by the limitation.

Next, on pages 2-3 of the Office Action, claims 13, 14, 16-21 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. In response, claim 13 has been amended to remove the term "vicinity" which the Examiner considers indefinite.

Further, the Examiner indicates that it is "*unclear if the recited "length in any direction" is limited to a length having as its endpoints, points that are also part of the recited perimeters.*" The answer is necessarily yes, because the relevant definition of the term length is "*the longer or longest dimension of an object.*" Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary.

Therefore, it is submitted that it is clear that the recited length is limited to a length having endpoints on the perimeter of the respective area. A distance "within" the perimeter could not be considered the length. In view of the above, it is submitted that claim 13 is now clearly in compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Further, the Examiner's point regarding claims 21 and 30 is well taken, and therefore, the language "a halogen containing gas of HBr" has been changed to "a halogen containing gas".

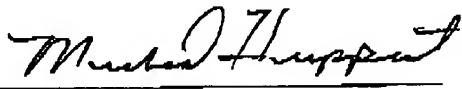
In view of the above, it is submitted that the present application is now clearly in condition for allowance. The Examiner therefore is requested to pass this case to issue.

In the event that the Examiner has any comments or suggestions of a nature necessary to place this case in condition for allowance, then the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney by telephone to promptly resolve any remaining matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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